

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20. Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Claims 9, 13, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 14 and 15 were also objected to.

I. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

On page 3 of the Office Action mailed June 30, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Application No. 2003/0220768 (referred to as “*Perry*” hereinafter).

Perry discloses a secure shared network between a fabrication facility and an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). The secured network includes a diagnostic system that monitors data generated by a tool controller, and then shares the data through layered firewalls. Fig. 4 of *Perry* illustrates that processing tool 402 is connected to a tool console server 404. In other words, the tool console server 404 is a conventional tool controller. The eCentre server 412 accesses the tool console server 404 through a tool gateway server 410 located between two firewalls 406 and 414. The eCentre server 412 cannot directly access information generated by each front end load component in the processing tool.

A. Independent Claim 1 Patently Distinguishes over *Perry*

Claim 1, among other things, recites:

“receiving messages and failure codes generated by the front end component controller through a data acquisition device that is coupled with the front end controller separate from the tool controller.”

Perry does not disclose a “data acquisition device,” separate from the tool controller, for collecting information generated by each front component controller. *Perry* teaches that the tool console server 404 collects the information generated by the tool 402. The tool console server 404 is a conventional tool controller. The eCentre server 412 disclosed in *Perry* collects tool data through two different servers – the tool console server 404 and the tool gateway server 410. If either server fails, the eCentre server 412 will not be able to monitor the tool at all. The “data acquisition device” recited in claim 1 is a separate device from the tool console server 404 or the

tool gateway server 410 disclosed in *Perry*. If the tool controller fails, the “data acquisition device” is still able to monitor the data generated by each front end component controller. Therefore, the method recited in claim 1 is not anticipated by *Perry*.

B. Dependent Claims 2-8, 10-12 and 14 Patently Distinguish over *Perry*

Dependent claims 2-8, 10-12 and 14 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. These dependent claims include all of the limitations of the independent claim from which they depend. Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2-8, 10-12 and 14 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above concerning independent claim 1.

C. Independent Claim 15 Patently Distinguishes over *Perry*

Claim 15, among other things, recites:

“a data acquisition device electrically coupled to each one of said component controllers separate from said tool controller, said data acquisition device adapted to receive said messages and alarm signals generated by each one of said component controllers”

Perry does not disclose a “data acquisition device,” separate from the tool controller, for collecting information generated by each front component controller. *Perry* teaches that the tool console server 404 collects the information generated by the tool 402. The tool console server 404 is a conventional tool controller. The eCentre server 412 disclosed in *Perry* collects tool data through two different servers – the tool console server 404 and the tool gateway server 410. If either server fails, the eCentre server 412 will not be able to monitor the tool at all. The “data acquisition device” recited in claim 1 is a separate device from the tool console server 404 or the tool gateway server 410 disclosed in *Perry*. If the tool controller fails, the “data acquisition device” is still able to monitor the data generated by each front end component controller. Therefore, the method recited in claim 1 is not anticipated by *Perry*.

D. Dependent Claims 16-18 Patently Distinguish over *Perry*

Dependent claims 16-18 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 15. These dependent claims include all of the limitations of the independent claim from which they depend. Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 16-18 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above concerning independent claim 15.

E. Independent Claim 20 Patently Distinguishes over *Perry*

Claim 20, among other things, recites:

“a data acquisition device electrically coupled to each one of said component controllers separate from said tool controller for monitoring said messages and alarm signals generated by said component controllers”

For at least the same reasons discussed above regarding claim 15, the system recited in claim 20 is not anticipated by *Perry*.

II. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

On page 8 of the Office Action mailed June 30, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 13, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Perry* in view of U.S. Published Application No. 2003/0109951 (referred to as “*Hsiung*” hereinafter).

The network disclosed in *Perry* is described above.

Hsiung discloses

A. Dependent Claims 9 and 13 Patently Distinguish over *Perry* in view of *Hsiung*

Dependent claims 9 and 13 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. As discussed above, the method recited in claim 1 is not anticipated by *Perry*. The system recited in claim 1 is also not obvious in view of *Perry*. *Perry* does not teach or suggest adding a separate “data acquisition device” to the network shown in Fig. 4 of *Perry*. All of the data generated by the processing tool 402 is collected by a single tool console server 404, and is passed downstream to the tool gateway server 410 and eCentre server 412. If the tool console server 404 or tool gateway server 410 fails, the eCentre server 412 cannot collect the data generated by the processing tool 402. Therefore, the method recited in claim 1 is not obvious over *Perry*.

Hsiung does not provide the elements missing in *Perry*. The examiner repeatedly cites *Hsiung* because *Hsiung* teaches an Internet browser or wireless network. *Hsiung* does not teach or suggest a “data acquisition device.” Therefore, the method recited in claim 1 is not obvious over *Perry* in view of *Hsiung*.

Dependent claims 9 and 13 include all of the limitations of the independent claim from which they depend. Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 9 and 13 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above concerning independent claim 1.

B. Dependent Claim 19 Patently Distinguishes over *Perry* in view of *Hsiung*

Dependent claim 19 depends directly or indirectly from independent claim 15. For at least the reasons discussed above regarding claims 9 and 13, the system recited in claim 15 is not obvious over *Perry* in view of *Hsiung*. Dependent claim 19 includes all of the limitations of the independent claim from which it depends. Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claim 19 is allowable for at least the reasons set forth above concerning independent claim 15.

Additional Remarks

The references cited by the Examiner but not relied upon have been reviewed, but are not believed to render the claims unpatentable, either singly or in combination.

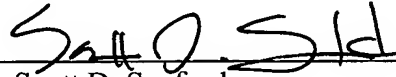
In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for extending the time to respond up and to today, November 10, 2005.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3548 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

Enclosed with this Response is a drawing sheet that includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1 only, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. Fig. 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error. In particular, the data acquisition device was incorrectly labeled as reference number 100 in originally filed Fig. 1. The enclosed replacement sheet 1/6 correctly identifies the data acquisition device with reference number 101.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet 1/6